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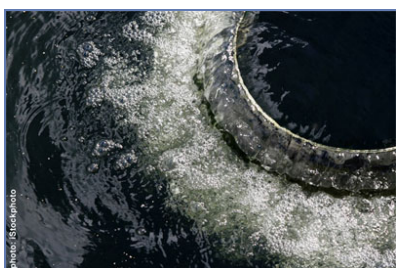
About the EMCDDA

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Latest news from the EU drugs agency

EMCDDA hosts second interdisciplinary meeting on sewage epidemiology

(31.01.2011)



Experts from across Europe and from the USA met on 28 January in Lisbon to review developments in the emerging science of

detecting drug residues in wastewater systems. This developing method has considerable potential to provide an additional indicator of drug use at the population level. The experts reported on numerous demonstration projects now underway across Europe and internationally, and explored methodological progress since the initial meeting on this topic hosted by the EMCDDA in 2007. Discussions focused on how European research in this area could be facilitated and on potential new uses of the techniques, for example in informing analysis on the size of the drug market or in identifying the use of new psychoactive substances.

- [More information on wastewater analysis](#)
- [Assessing illicit drugs in wastewater \(Insights 9\)](#)

EU drugs agency launches new guidelines for HIV testing in injecting drug users (30.11.2010)



More injecting drug users should undergo tests for HIV, viral hepatitis and other infections such as tuberculosis, says the EU drugs agency (EMCDDA). In new guidelines published today on the eve of World AIDS Day, the

agency describes how, in this group, the uptake of testing is still low in many European countries.

Events

EU agencies: the way ahead

(18.01.2011)



From Helsinki to Crete and from Lisbon to Vilnius, specialised agencies have been established to provide services, information and know-how to the European Union, its Member States and citizens. At an upcoming exhibition at the European Parliament, the agencies will be explaining to MEPs what they do, why they exist and how they impact on the lives of Europe's 500 million citizens. The stand will serve as a focal point for a rich programme of activities where agencies will present in thematic clusters how they work together on a broad range of policy issues.

- [Information page on the event](#)
- [Read the media announcement](#)
- [Photo gallery](#)

Partners

[National drug conference in Turkey](#) (21.02.2011)

About the EMCDDA

The European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) is the central source of comprehensive information on drugs and drug addiction in Europe.

[Read more >>](#)


Interested in working for the EMCDDA?

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Recent publications


Budget 2011
 February 2011
 The EMCDDA receives stable funding under Commission budget line B3-441 of the general budget of the EU. This is the EMCDDA budget for the year 2011.


Work programme 2011
 January 2011
 The 2011 work programme takes forward activities begun in 2010 to implement the EMCDDA's three-year strategy (2010–12).


First European conference on drug supply indicators — key conclusions
 December 2010

Themes (A-Z)[Driving](#)[Drug profiles](#)[Neuroscience](#)[Research](#)[Women](#)[Young people](#)**Publications**[Annual report](#)[Drugnet Europe](#)[Drugs in focus](#)[Insights](#)[Monographs](#)[Selected issues](#)**News and press room**[News releases](#)[Fact sheets](#)[Media support](#)

Infectious diseases are among the most serious health consequences of injecting drug use and can lead to significant healthcare costs. The new guidelines recommend a strategy to increase testing uptake, both in Europe and beyond, that would ensure earlier treatment for injecting drug users (IDUs) and would lower the risk of infection spreading to the wider population.

- [Read more in news release No 14/2010](#)
- [Download EMCDDA Manual No 6](#)
- [ECDC Spotlight on HIV testing](#)

Europe faces new challenges posed by changes in drug supply and use

(10.11.2010)



Changes in the supply and use of established drugs and the emergence of a record number of new substances increasingly test Europe's drug control models, says the EU drugs

agency (EMCDDA). These challenges are described in the Annual report 2010: the state of the drugs problem in Europe, launched by the EMCDDA today in Lisbon. Among them: sophisticated cocaine smuggling techniques; changes in the stimulant market; widespread domestic cannabis production; and the continuous appearance of 'legal highs' designed to replace controlled substances.

- [Read more in news release No 11/2010](#)
- [Download the 2010 annual report](#)
- [Annual report event page](#)

Over 1 million drug users a year in treatment, but considerable challenges remain

(10.11.2010)

Offering effective treatment to those with substance use problems is a central pillar of Europe's response to drugs. According to the EU drugs agency (EMCDDA), both the quality and quantity of care available to drug users has improved considerably since the 1990s when better access to drug treatment became a drug policy priority. The EMCDDA estimates that at least 1 million people in the European Union receive some form of treatment for drug problems every year. Yet considerable challenges remain for treatment services. Heroin-related problems maintain a firm hold, both inside the EU and at its borders, and budgetary constraints become a reality in the economic downturn.



'New trends, gaps and needs' was the theme of the first national conference organised by the Turkish national focal point (TUBIM) from 16–18 February in Antalya. Themes discussed at the event included: epidemiology and monitoring the drugs situation in Turkey; best practice in demand reduction; international cooperation; and the results of a twinning project between Turkey and a consortium of countries led by the German national focal point (IFT). Attending the event were international experts and representatives from 81 provinces of Turkey (e.g. related ministries and their provincial units, municipalities). The Turkish version of Building a national drug observatory: a joint handbook was presented during the proceedings.

- [Turkish national focal point \(site in Turkish\)](#)
- [Building a national drugs observatory handbook](#)

Mephedrone update

Control measures applicable to mephedrone

(03.12.2010)

The Council of the EU adopted a decision today on

Main conclusions from the First European conference on drug supply indicators, 20–22 October 2010, Brussels.



Guidelines for testing HIV, viral hepatitis and other infections in injecting drug users

November 2010

Infectious diseases are among the most serious health consequences of injecting drug use and can lead to significant healthcare costs.



2010 Annual report

November 2010
This report presents the EMCDDA's yearly overview of the drug phenomenon. This is an essential reference book for policymakers, specialists and practitioners in the drugs field or indeed anyone seeking the latest findings on drugs in Europe.



Problem amphetamine and methamphetamine use in Europe

November 2010

This Selected issue looks at the current situation in the light of the historical development of amphetamines use since the introduction of these substances as medicines in the 1930s.

[All publications >>](#)

Spotlight

Reitox network of national focal points

External links

Agencies of the EU



European Commission: DG Freedom, security and justice, Drugs coordination unit



EU Health Portal



These issues are explored in the Annual report 2010: the state of the drugs problem in Europe, launched today in Lisbon.

The training package consists of a core section on harm reduction and several additional modules on subjects such as infectious diseases, mental health and women. The manual will be available in Bulgarian, German, Italian, Latvian and Romanian.

- [Read more in news release No 12/2010](#)
- [Download 'Problem amphetamine and methamphetamine use in Europe'](#)

'Drug problems have no age limits' — more older drug users seeking help, says EMCDDA (10.11.2010)

'Drug problems have no age limits,' says the EU drugs agency (EMCDDA). In a special review published today alongside its 2010 Annual report, the agency reveals why drug use is no longer simply a 'youth phenomenon'.

Europe is experiencing a pronounced ageing of its population, around a quarter of which will be aged 65 or over by 2050. Statistics published today show that Europe's drug-using population is also ageing and that meeting the needs of older drug users is a growing issue for treatment services. This is particularly the case in western countries which saw the EU's first heroin epidemics in the 1980s and 1990s.

- [Read more in news release No 13/2010](#)
- [Download 'Treatment and care for older drug users'](#)

'Prison staff and harm reduction': new training material (05.11.2010)

A new training manual, [Prison staff and harm reduction](#), was launched at the second meeting of the [Health Promotion of Young Prisoners \(HPYP\)](#) project, hosted at the EMCDDA on 5 November. The training material (in English) is the main output of an EU-funded project: '[Training criminal justice professionals \(TCJP\) in harm reduction services for vulnerable groups](#)'. This initiative supports key European Commission strategies on addictive substances, particularly the ongoing EU drugs strategy and action plan. Among others, it aims to develop and improve training for professionals in the criminal justice system who work on the 'front line' with problem drug users.

The training package consists of a core section on harm reduction and several additional modules on subjects such as infectious diseases, mental health and women. The manual will be available in Bulgarian, German, Italian, Latvian and Romanian.

Conference to lay groundwork for

decision today on submitting mephedrone (4-methylmethcathinone) to control measures across the Union (16523/10). Mephedrone is a synthetic drug deemed to have similar effects to other stimulant drugs, in particular ecstasy (MDMA) and is primarily used in combination with substances like alcohol and other stimulants. Since mephedrone is already under control in some Member States, the current decision will facilitate cross-border law enforcement and judicial cooperation.

- [Council news release](#)

Mephedrone update

Commission achieves EU-wide ban on ecstasy-like drug mephedrone

(03.12.2010)

The EU's 27 Justice Ministers agreed today to ban a dangerous ecstasy-like drug that is still legal in some EU countries. The European Commission proposed on 20 October that governments act to stop the free spread of the drug 'mephedrone' across Europe by submitting it to control measures (see [IP/10/1355](#)). A scientific [risk assessment](#) carried



monitoring drug markets, crime and supply reduction (20.10.2010)

First European conference on drug supply indicators, Brussels 20–22 October



Drug trafficking remains one of the most productive trades for organised criminal groups in the EU today. And understanding how

the illicit drug market works is a high priority of the ongoing European strategy and action plan on drugs. In this optic, the European Commission and the EU drugs agency (EMCDDA) have joined forces to organise in Brussels this week the First European conference on drug supply indicators. The event is organised with the active involvement of Europol.

The organisers believe that this milestone event will make an important contribution to achieving the objectives of the EU drugs action plan (2009–12), which calls for the design of standard European indicators on drug supply issues by 2012. The aim of the conference will be to lay the groundwork for a set of technically sound and sustainable indicators for monitoring drug markets, crime and supply reduction to be completed by this date.

- [Special event page on the conference](#)
- [Read more in news release No 9/2010](#)
- [Key conclusions](#)

Boosting drug monitoring capacity across Europe and beyond (14–15 October) (11.10.2010)

EU drugs agency explores cooperation with Europe's closest neighbours



Europe's drug monitoring system will be showcased by the EU drugs agency (EMCDDA) in Brussels this week at a seminar held in the context of the European Neighbourhood

Policy (ENP). Perspectives for technical cooperation between the drugs agency and the 16 ENP partner countries will be explored at the event, with a particular focus on institution-building and boosting drug monitoring capacity. The kick-off meeting will conclude with a work plan for the period 2011–13.

Related links

- [Read more in news release No 6/2010](#)

out by the EMCDDA showed that mephedrone can cause acute health problems and lead to dependency, while a few fatalities related to its use have been reported across Europe.

- [Commission news release](#)

Annual report package

Cecilia

Malmström:

'Enhanced monitoring of the movement of illegal drugs across EU borders will help our efforts to tackle organised crime'

Previewing the findings of the EMCDDA's 2010 Annual report, European Commissioner for Home Affairs Cecilia Malmström, said: 'This report provides an important focal point for drugs issues at European level: it is an invaluable source of data and analysis'.

- [Read more in news release No 10/2010](#)

Health and consumer policy

European Commissioner John Dalli visits EMCDDA

(08.11.2010)

Mr John Dalli, European Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy, visited the EU

- [Special event page on the seminar](#)
- [European Neighbourhood Policy \(external link\)](#)

Other news



- ▶ [Risk-assessment report on mephedrone\(10.09.2010\)](#)
- ▶ [DGJUST open tender on 'Further analysis of the EU illicit drugs market and responses to it — responding to future challenges' \(deadline 08.12.2010\)](#)
- ▶ [EMCDDA and ONDCP Directors compare policy developments and review status of cooperation \(29.09.2010\)](#)
- ▶ [EMCDDA and CICAD Directors sign three-year work programme \(21.09.2010\)](#)
- ▶ [Rights Here, Right Now — International AIDS conference, Vienna 18–23 July 2010 \(22.07.2010\)](#)
- ▶ [26 June: International day against drug abuse and illicit trafficking \(24.06.2010\)](#)
- ▶ [EU drugs and medicines agencies sign agreement today in London \(10.06.2010\)](#)

Full articles and more news in our News section >>

visited the EU drugs agency (EMCDDA) in Lisbon this morning for the latest update on the drug phenomenon across Europe. The meeting, with EMCDDA Director Wolfgang Götz, took place ahead of this week's release of the Annual report 2010: the state of the drugs problem in Europe.

- [Fact sheet No 9/2010](#)

Partners

EU drugs agency signs accord with Council of Europe's Pompidou Group (03.11.2010)



Coordinating efforts to address Europe's drugs problem and using resources effectively were among the pledges made today by the EU drugs agency (EMCDDA) and the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe in a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in Strasbourg.

- [Fact sheet No 8/2010](#)
- [Memorandum of Understanding \(PDF\)](#)